

Get Involved- **Start a Paint the Drain Program!**

Louisiana Storm Drain Stencil Program:

Toxic chemicals, like motor oil and household cleaning products, wash directly from storm drains, untreated, into lakes, bayous and rivers. Toxic chemicals are harmful to fish, fish eggs and other wildlife living in and around the lake or bayou. Raccoons, deer, birds and other wildlife that drink the water or eat contaminated fish or other aquatic animals may also become sick. Eventually, humans eat the contaminated animals and fish. Sometimes whole communities draw their drinking water from the contaminated lakes and rivers. It's a sad story, all because people used their storm drain as a dump for garbage and wastes, instead of for the intended purpose of collecting rain water. Some people believe that they can dump motor oil, soap suds, household cleaners, paints, antifreeze, pesticides and other hazardous wastes into their storm drains and these wastes will be carried to a sewage treatment facility.

Contact:

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Non-Point Source Program / Storm Drain Stenciling
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Who is painting drains?

Community groups, boy scouts, girl scouts, school groups, parents clubs, garden clubs, environmental groups, civic organizations, men and women, boys and girls, young and old, kids with class projects, adults providing community service.

How easy is getting permission?

1. Once you have mailed in a volunteer form to DEQ, you will be notified about who to contact in your area for permission to stencil drains.
2. If you are painting drains along public thoroughfares, usually you will be directed to call your city or parish Public Works Department. Ask for the drain utility or road maintenance division.
3. You will then get a letter of approval from the public works department.
4. If the drains are located on private property, such as an apartment parking lot, get a letter of approval from the management.

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/default.aspx?tabid=2048>